



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

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May 9, 2001

Paul Seligman, M.D., MPH
Deputy Assistant Secretary
For Health Studies
U.S. Department of Energy
Germantown, MD 20874-1290

Dear Dr. Seligman:

Following your letter of April 30, 2001, I informed representatives of the 4 atolls and the Nuclear Claims Tribunal that you would be willing to convene the annual Department of Energy (DOE) – Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) meeting on June 13-14, 2001 in Washington, D.C. In response to your letter, the atoll and Tribunal participants have indicated that although the dates in June are satisfactory to them, the RMI participants feel strongly that the meeting should be held in Honolulu

The RMI participants have strong reasons for wanting to shift the meeting from Washington, D.C. to Honolulu. First of all, many of the participants purchased non-refundable airplane tickets to Hawaii for the original meeting we scheduled for May 2-3, 2001. I understand that you were forced to cancel the May 2-3 meeting in order to testify before Congress, but the fact remains that many people spent a great deal of money for a meeting that never took place. Purchasing tickets to D.C. after purchasing unused tickets to Honolulu results in an enormous financial burden on the RMI participants. Furthermore, RMI participants would have to travel two days to Washington, D.C. and two days back to Majuro. Honolulu is much more convenient for the great majority of participants to the annual meeting. Because of the financial burden and the inconvenience of traveling to Washington, D.C. for most of the meeting's participants, I am writing to request that the DOE – RMI meeting be moved to Honolulu

In addition to moving the venue for the meeting, I am also writing to request confirmation from you that DOE's consultants from PHRI and LLNL will attend the meetings. From an RMI perspective, there is no use in having so many people travel thousands of miles if they cannot meet with the contractors.

I would appreciate a response from you as soon as possible so that participants can make travel plans in advance of the meeting.

Regards,

Banny deBrum
Ambassador

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Banny deBrum", is written over the printed name.

Cc: The Honorable Michael ~~Senko~~, U.S. Ambassador to the Marshall Islands
The Honorable Alvin T. Jacklick, Minister of Foreign Affairs
The Honorable Gerald Zackios, Minister in Assistance to the President
The Honorable Frank H. Murkowski, ~~Chairman~~, Senate Energy Committee
The Honorable Jeff ~~Bingaman~~, Ranking Member, Senate Energy Committee
The Honorable Daniel ~~K.~~ Akaka,, Senate ~~Energy~~ Committee
The Honorable Daniel ~~K.~~ Inouye, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable James V. Hansen, Chairman, House Resources Committee
The Honorable Nick J. ~~Rahall~~, II, ~~Ranking~~ Member, House Resources Committee
The Honorable Don Young, House Resources Committee
The Honorable George Miller, House Resources Committee
The Honorable Robert Underwood, House Resources Committee
The Honorable ~~Eni~~ Faleomavaega, House Resources Committee
Allen ~~Stayman~~, U.S. Department of State
Terry ~~Breese~~, U.S. Department of State
~~Nik~~ Pula, U.S. Department of the Interior
Lt. Col. 'Peter ~~Ipsen~~, Department of Defense
The Honorable Abacca ~~Anjain-Maddison~~, Senator, Rongelap
The Honorable James ~~Matayoshi~~, Mayor, Rongelap
The Honorable ~~Hiroshi~~ Yamamura, Senator, ~~Utrik~~
The Honorable Joe Saul, Mayor, ~~Utrik~~
The Honorable Tomaki ~~Juda~~, Senator, Bikini
The Honorable Eldon Note, Mayor, Bikini
The Honorable ~~Ishmael~~ John, Senator, Enewetak
The Honorable ~~Neptali~~ Peter, Mayor, Enewetak
The Honorable Oscar ~~deBrum~~, Nuclear Claims Tribunal
